

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



April 17, 2003

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-20-03

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS  
ALL FOOD STAMP EMPLOYMENT AND  
TRAINING (FSET) COORDINATORS

**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

- ☐ State Law Change
- ☒ Federal Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Court Order or Settlement Agreement
- ☐ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☐ Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: TRANSITION OF LEGAL  
NONCITIZENS WHO ARE ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT  
DEPENDENTS (ABAWDs) FROM CALIFORNIA FOOD ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM (CFAP) TO FEDERAL FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

REFERENCES: ALL-COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 03-08, DATED  
February 11, 2003; UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE (FNS) ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE (AN)  
03-04, dated October 21, 2002; PUBLIC LAW 107-171 of  
May 13, 2002, SECTION 4401

The purpose of this notice is to transmit instructions to County Welfare Departments (CWDs) about tracking the 36-month calendar for ABAWDs who transition from CFAP to the Federal Food Stamp Program (FSP). Specifically, CWDs should establish new 36-month calendars for ABAWDs who transition from CFAP to the federal FSP. When a qualified, transitioning ABAWD meets the five-year residency requirement, CWDs must begin to track the federal food stamp 36-month calendar in the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) as described in Manual of Policies and Procedures Section 63-410.114 on April 1, 2003 or the month the individual reaches the five-year residency requirement, whichever is later.

For counties that have been manually tracking the 36-month calendar for CFAP, a new ABAWD calendar should be started and tracked in MEDS. In counties that have been using MEDS to track the 36-month calendar for CFAP, the ABAWDs calendar must be adjusted to restart at month number one. Finally, in counties where ABAWDs are deferred or exempted or in counties that have federal waivers of the ABAWD work registration requirement, there will be no adjustment of an ABAWDs calendar. However, appropriate tracking of all ABAWDs on the federal food stamp program must be done on the Stat 40 and Stat 46 reports.

These changes resulted from the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act of 2002, which is part of the 2002 Farm Bill, Public Law 107-171 (Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002) and implementation guidelines set forth by the Food and Nutrition Service in AN 03-04, dated October 21, 2002. The 2002 Farm Bill restores federal food stamp eligibility to many legal noncitizens who lost eligibility under the 1996 welfare reform legislation. As stated in ACL 03-08, federal food stamp benefits have already been restored to disabled Legal noncitizens as of October 1, 2002.

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The majority of legal noncitizens were affected on April 1, 2003, when those who have lawfully resided in the country for five years regained federal food stamp benefit eligibility. October 1, 2003, legal noncitizens who are under the age of 18 will also be eligible for federal food stamp benefits.

The California Department of Social Services' (CDSS) Employment and Eligibility Branch informed counties of the new rules at the April Food Stamp Technical Review Team meeting. In addition, a number of counties that inquired directly to CDSS were given verbal instruction via telephone. However, if upon receiving these instructions you have any questions, please contact Gail Sullivan, Manager, at (916) 654-2137 or Michelle Norris, Analyst, at (916) 654-1451.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By  
Charr Lee Metsker on 4/16/03***

CHARR LEE METSKER, Chief  
Employment and Eligibility Branch

c: CWDA  
CSAC